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(54) Title: IMMUNOSTIMULATORY NUCLEIC ACIDS AND ANTIGENS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods and compositions for modulating an individual's immune response to antigens. It is an aspect of the present invention that allergic responses to antigens, which in some cases lead to asthma and even anaphylaxis, can be treated or prevented by administering compositions having immunostimulatory oligonucleotides having unmethylated CpG sequences. It is another aspect of the present invention that allergies to antigens, especially one that result in asthma and anaphylaxis, can be treated or prevented by administering compositions containing immunostimulatory oligonucleotides having unmethylated CpG dinucleotide sequences and further comprising antigen(s), fragments of the antigen, mixtures of fragments of the antigen, antigens modified to reduce Th2-type immune responses, and fragments of the antigen modified to reduce Th2-type immune responses. Cellular systems for studying immunostimulation by CpG containing nucleic acids include in vivo, in vitro or ex vivo systems.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61K39/35 A61K A61K39/38 A61P37/04 A61K39/39 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) CHEM ABS Data, BIOSIS, EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, STRAND, MEDLINE C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category 3 1-3.8.KLINMAN DENNIS M ET AL: "CpG motifs as X immune adjuvants." 10-1419,21, VACCINE, vol. 17, no. 1, January 1999 (1999-01), pages 19-25, XP004139028 22,37 ISSN: 0264-410X 4-7, Y abstract 15-18 page 19, column 1, last paragraph -column 2, paragraph 2 page 20, column 1, last paragraph page 22, column 1, last paragraph -column 2, paragraph 1 figure 3 -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "P" document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 26/10/2000 19 October 2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Noë, V

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